



Michigan Department of Natural Resources **Biodiversity Stewardship Area Information Gathering Workshops**

Northern Lower Peninsula Workshops		
Date & Time	Location	Facility
March 24, 2009 6-9 PM	Traverse City	Garfield Township Hall 3848 Veterans Dr., Traverse City, MI 49685
March 25, 2009 6-9 PM	Gaylord	Otsego County Bldg., Conf. Rm. #100 225 West Main St., Gaylord, MI 49735
March 26, 2009 6-9 PM	Bay City	Delta College Planetarium, Rm. 114 100 Center Ave., Bay City, MI 48708

~ Frequently Asked Questions ~

Why are these workshops being held?

To gather recommendations for specific areas that should be considered for inclusion in the Biodiversity Stewardship Area network. This process is the culmination of several earlier Department of Natural Resources (DNR) planning efforts that spanned the past two decades. The initial focus of these efforts was conservation of older age class forests, but it evolved into a statewide biodiversity conservation planning process.

What is the Biodiversity Stewardship Area (BSA) network?

It will be a set of areas that consists of high-quality examples of each of the natural communities that occurs within a particular ecological sub-section of the State. The goal is for these areas to represent as much of the full native biodiversity of Michigan as possible. Biodiversity refers to the full variety of living organisms, the genes they contain, and the communities in which they occur.

What are natural communities?

Plants, animals and other organisms tend to occur in particular combinations that are repeated across the landscape in places with similar environmental conditions. These repeated combinations are called natural communities. Seventy-six (76) unique natural communities occur in Michigan. Michigan Natural Features Inventory has described each of these natural communities and provided example images at its web site:

<http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/communities/index.cfm>.

What are ecological sub-sections?

Ecological sub-sections are part of a statewide framework that divides the State into distinctive ecosystems based on differences in climate, bedrock geology, glacial landform, and soils. A particular natural community may occur in many different sub-sections, but due to the differences between those sub-sections, there may also be differences in the plants, animals or other organisms that occur there and the genes that they contain. By building a BSA network with examples of the same natural community from different sub-sections, we will conserve more of the biodiversity that occurs in Michigan. Descriptions and maps of ecological sub-sections are available online at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/habitat/rlandscp/index.htm>.

Which natural communities occur in which ecological sub-sections?

This information is provided by clicking on the following links:

Southern Lower Peninsula

Subsection 6.1
Subsection 6.2
Subsection 6.3
Subsection 6.4
Subsection 6.5
[Subsection 6.6](#)

Eastern Upper Peninsula

Subsection 8.1
Subsection 8.2
Subsection 8.3

Northern Lower Peninsula

[Subsection 7.1](#)
[Subsection 7.2](#)
[Subsection 7.3](#)
[Subsection 7.4](#)
[Subsection 7.5](#)
[Subsection 7.6](#)

Western Upper Peninsula

Subsection 9.1
Subsection 9.2
Subsection 9.3
Subsection 9.5
Subsection 9.6
Subsection 9.7
Subsection 9.8

What kinds of areas are being considered as potential BSAs?

A good candidate BSA will have the following characteristics:

- It includes high-quality examples of one or more natural communities
- It occurs in an area that includes and is surrounded by lands with minimal human disturbance
- It is of a size and condition that will allow natural processes to either occur or be mimicked through restoration activities
- It is not significantly threatened by human development, invasive species or any other threat to its high-quality condition
- It does not occur in an area where current or future management activities have been conducted or prescribed that are incompatible with biodiversity conservation

Do BSAs have to occur on State-owned lands?

No. Potential BSAs can be identified on any land ownership, or combination of ownerships. The portions of BSAs that occur on DNR-administered land will be managed for the primary purpose of biodiversity conservation (other activities that are compatible with this purpose may also be allowed). The Department will work with partners to identify opportunities for cooperative biodiversity conservation efforts on the portions of BSAs that are not on DNR-administered land.

How do I recommend an area as a candidate BSA?

You can attend one of the Information Gathering Workshops and provide your recommendation in person or submit a Conservation Area Recommendation Form, which is available on-line at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/PR4199ConservationAreaRecommendationForm_145873_7.pdf. The first set of workshops have been scheduled for the northern Lower Peninsula (see schedule above), and other regions of the state will follow later in 2009 and 2010.

Who will make the decision about what areas to include in the BSA network?

Candidate areas will be assessed by regional teams of DNR staff and stakeholders. These teams will make a formal recommendation to the DNR for a set of areas that should be included in the BSA network for their region. The DNR's Statewide Council will make the final decision after internal and public review.

Whom do I contact with additional questions?

Please contact Amy Clark Eagle, (Biodiversity and Conservation Program Leader, DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division) at 517-335-3351 or eaglea@michigan.gov.